

## ABSTRACT

Libraries and individual program components are provided with a common  
5 interface and a number of alternative implementations (e.g. hash table, tree,  
compressed) which can be selected. The component is instrumented to measure  
a cost of each of its alternative implementations, both independent of and in the  
context of the interaction of that component with other components of the  
computer program. Based on measured cost, the desired implementation is  
10 chosen for the component by an external controller that is generic to the  
computer program or by an application program that interfaces with the library or  
component .

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